

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1 through 9 and add Claims 10 through 12 to read, as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation apparatus comprising:

an image carrying member;

charging means for being applied with a voltage including an AC voltage component and coming into contact with a surface ~~the face~~ of said image carrying member so as to charge said image carrying member;

developing means for visualizing an electrostatic latent image formed on said image carrying member into a developing agent image with a developing agent;

transfer means for transferring the ~~the~~ ~~[[said]]~~ developing agent image onto a transfer member; and

developing agent charging means for charging developing agent remaining on said image carrying member following the transfer, ~~said transfer~~;

wherein said developing agent charging means is upstream from ~~in the direction of motion of image carrying member as to~~ said charging means and downstream from said transfer member in a direction of motion of said image carrying member, ~~means~~;

~~and~~ wherein application of the ~~the~~ ~~[[said]]~~ AC voltage to said charging means is started before a portion on said image carrying member, ~~means~~; where application of voltage to said developing agent charging means has started, reaches a position of coming into contact with said charging means, ~~and means~~;

~~and~~ wherein ~~ending of~~ application of the ~~the~~ ~~[[said]]~~ AC voltage to said charging means is ended ~~[[ends]]~~ after a portion on said image carrying member, ~~means~~; where

application of voltage to said developing agent charging means has ended, reaches a position of coming into contact with said charging means.

2. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the [[said]] AC voltage has an inter-peak voltage of twice or more the discharge starting voltage between said image carrying member and said charging means.

3. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said developing agent charging means comprises ~~comprise~~ electroconductive brush-shaped members coming into contact with said image carrying member.

4. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said developing means performs ~~perform~~ contact developing, and ~~developing~~ wherein said developing agent charging means comes into contact with said image carrying member.

5. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said developing agent is a two-component ~~two-component~~ developing agent of toner and magnetic carrier.

6. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said developing agent carrying means comprises: ~~comprise:~~

first developing agent charging ~~carrying~~ means situated downstream ~~in the direction of motion of said image carrying member~~ from said transfer means and upstream from said ~~charging means in the direction of motion of said image carrying member; means;~~ and

second developing agent charging ~~carrying~~ means situated downstream ~~in the direction of motion of said image carrying member~~ from said first developing agent charging ~~carrying~~ means and upstream from said charging means in the direction of motion of said image carrying member, and means;

wherein said first developing agent charging ~~carrying~~ means applies ~~apply~~ voltage of inverse polarity to a ~~[[the]]~~ regular polarity of the developing agent, and said second developing agent charging ~~carrying~~ means applies the ~~apply~~ regular polarity voltage of the developing agent.

7. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the developing agent remaining on said image carrying member following transfer is collected by said developing means using an electric field.

8. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the developing agent remaining on said image carrying member following transfer is collected by said transfer means using an electric field.

9. **(Currently Amended)** An image formation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a DC voltage and the AC voltage are ~~[[is]]~~ superimposed on said charging means, with the order of starting application of voltage being in the order of the AC voltage and

then the DC voltage, and with the order of ending application of voltage being in the order of DC voltage and then AC voltage.

10. (New) An image formation apparatus comprising:

an image carrying member;

charging means for being applied with a voltage including an AC voltage component and coming into contact with a surface of said image carrying member so as to charge said image carrying member;

developing means for visualizing an electrostatic latent image formed on said image carrying member into a developing agent image with a developing agent;

transfer means for transferring said developing agent image onto a transfer member;
and

developing agent charging means for charging developing agent remaining on said image carrying member following the transfer,

wherein said developing agent charging means is upstream from said charging means and downstream from said transfer means in the direction of motion of said image carrying member,

and wherein application of the AC voltage to said charging means is ended after a portion on said image carrying member, where application of voltage to said developing agent charging means has ended, reaches a position of coming into contact with said charging means.

11. **(New)** An image formation apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the AC voltage has an inter-peak voltage of twice or more a discharge starting voltage between said image carrying member and said charging means.

12. **(New)** An image formation apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein a DC voltage and the AC voltage are superimposed on said charging means, with an order of ending application of voltage being in the order of the DC voltage and then the AC voltage.